

THE RICHARD NIXON



LIBRARY & BIRTHPLACE

March 15, 2005

Dr. Allen Weinstein
Archivist of the United States
National Archives and Records Administration
700 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20408-0001

Dear Allen,

Thank you for your letter of March 14, which accurately distills our conversations during our meeting in Washington on the day of your swearing-in. My colleagues and I are deeply grateful to you for receiving us on such a hectic day – a gesture fully in keeping with the graciousness and professionalism of all of your colleagues in recent months as we have begun planning the transition of the Nixon Library from private to NARA status.

Chairman Bendetti and other members of our Board of Directors were delighted to learn of your willingness to visit with us here at the Library sometime next month. As is always the case when a Presidential foundation is expending funds as it prepares to join the NARA system but before all needed Federal funding is in place, our Board and staff – which over the last 20 years have invested and raised about \$100 million to construct and operate the private Nixon Library – will be significantly reassured by hearing in person of your resolve to make this long-sought abstraction an exciting reality on our agreed-upon handover date in February 2006. We understand that this date is contingent on obtaining Federal funding for staff and operations at Yorba Linda.

As we prepare for your visit, I'd like to highlight and reiterate some key issues.

The Nixon Foundation believes that it is vital for the NARA Nixon Library to house a unitary collection in every possible respect, including especially the late President's official non-deeded pre-Presidential records as well as the so-called personal-political tapes. We look forward to concluding a deed of these records as part of our overall agreement on the operation of the Library.

We also understand NARA's desire to present a more strictly factual account in our museum of the events leading to the President's resignation. We will provide the proposed narrative for your colleagues' review. We are grateful for the opportunity to work with NARA experts in selecting documents and artifacts to help tell the story in a compelling and appropriate way.

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Finally, we look forward to working with our future colleagues at the other Libraries in co-sponsoring a wide-ranging, multi-perspective conference on the Vietnam war, including policy makers, scholars, and journalists.

We share your enthusiasm about the institution which will rise up here in Yorba Linda once all our labors are complete. The combined archives of the Nixon Library, under the control of NARA officials and archivists, will be a vital resource for scholars and for all Americans for generations to come. Meanwhile our Foundation stands ready to serve as a constructive and collaborative partner with our NARA colleagues in supporting appropriate and enlightening programming to help the public understand the full picture of President Nixon and his tumultuous times.

Please don't hesitate to let me know how we can be helpful to you at any point in this process.

With best regards,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'JH Taylor', followed by a comma.

(The Rev.) John H. Taylor
Executive Director